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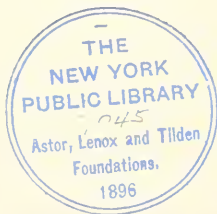


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IN MEMORIAM.



Presented by J. S. Ray

IT HAS
BEEN WITH
TENDER AND LOV-
ING HANDS THAT DR.
TYNG'S ADDRESS, AND THESE
RESOLUTIONS, WITH A FEW NOTICES
OF MR. BLODGETT'S DEATH, FROM THE
DAILY NEWSPAPERS, HAVE BEEN COLLECTED
IN THIS MORE PERMANENT FORM, AS AN
OFFERING TO THE RELATIVES AND
A FEW CHERISHED FRIENDS,
IN AFFECTIONATE MEM-
ORY OF HIM WE
LOVED SO
WELL.

WILLIAM TILDEN BLODGETT.

Born, February 18th, 1823.

Died, November 4th, 1875.

Rock of Ages.

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee ;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy riven side which flow'd,
Be of sin the double cure.
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill thy law's demands ;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone,
Thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring ;
Simply to thy cross I cling ;
Naked, come to thee for dress ;
Helpless, look to thee for grace :
Foul, I to the fountain fly ;
Wash me, Saviour, or I die.

When I draw this fleeting breath,
When my eyelids close in death,
When I soar through tracts unknown,
See thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.

ADDRESS
OF
REV. STEPHEN H. TYNG, D.D.,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE FUNERAL OF
WILLIAM T. BLODGETT,
IN
ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, STUYVESANT SQUARE, NEW YORK,
NOVEMBER 8, 1875.

ADDRESS
OF
REV. STEPHEN H. TYNG, D.D.

There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial : but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.—I. CORINTHIANS, XV. 40.

IN this verse, Paul speaks of the glory of the terrestrial and of the glory of the celestial. There is to us, this morning, sweet consolation in these words and those which immediately follow them in the chapter I have read ; for, as we gather in sadness around the form of our beloved brother, now gone to his rest forever, we have the assurance that the glory of the terrestrial is merged in the glory of the celestial.

Of the terrestrial glory of him who has gone from us, most of those who are before

me can testify. Personally, I am well able to speak of him, for, in the year 1848, when the first church on this ground was organized for public worship, this beloved brother was one of the first to make a part of our congregation.

He very early in his connection with us became a communicant of this church, and has been with us steadily during all this period of his life, which has now come to its conclusion; and all who have been associated with him in the church have learned to love and value him on account of the unconscious personal influence he exerted.

Few in private life, I think, more closely obeyed the laws governing a perfect domestic character. More than twenty-five years ago this beloved son took me to the bedside of his invalid mother, and there I gained from her own lips what he had been

to his family. His love and care was not only that of a son and brother, but that of a father ; and the family have testified to the same care and watchfulness during these intervening years. He was truly the Joseph of the family, the favored son. His greeting to me the last time I entered his sick-room, but a few hours before his death, was, "My faithful and beloved friend."

In the various relationships of society, in the promotion of art and science, the public welfare and the public happiness, his name has become not only familiar, but, to a great degree, celebrated and widely known.

The whole current of his life, as it has been before the public, has been applauded and approved. A man of the highest integrity ; a man of unblemished morals ; a man of the highest personal taste ; a man

of the noblest distinction in the line of duty ; a man foremost in generous and benevolent enterprises : the whole community have thus beheld and honored him.

I need not dwell upon that. The assembly which I see before me is the united testimony of his terrestrial glory, as known and accepted in all its varied relations.

Our personal relations to him, and our personal obligations to him, cannot be forgotten.

He has walked with us a servant of the living God ; a disciple of the beloved Saviour ; a pattern to our youth ; a companion to our maturer years ; and a witness to the great principles of the gospel which he has here received and enjoyed and exemplified, and the full affluence of which he now knows. When the time of his departure came he was found ready.

I may truly say, as his pastor, that for

nearly thirty years he has been literally to me a son and a brother, extending always the hand of loving kindness and affection, and the hand of generosity and faithfulness; assisting always in offices of tenderness and charity, and doing the work of the Lord with glad and earnest heart; and surely there is encouragement in the text for the thought that the terrestrial glory which belonged to him here is to be enlarged and developed in the celestial glory into which he has, I doubt not, entered.

His last words were those of tenderness and affection. So we lived, pastor and communicant, and so we separated. His memory is sweet and precious here, and I cannot doubt but that his influence will go on widening and extending forever.

I need not analyze the circumstances of his life in an audience so large as this. It is not for us to speak of those relationships,

of which, however, I must say, he has been a very eminent illustration. Domestic affection, filial love, family tenderness in the household, fidelity, integrity, generosity, kindness and courtesy in his relations to his fellow-men, have ever been strong characteristics of his honorable and honored life ; and these high qualities were but the outgrowth and visible manifestation of the Christian principles he so worthily exemplified.

We cannot be surprised that terrestrial glory has attended such a life ; that wisdom and judgment in the avocations of life have resulted in prosperity ; and that fidelity and tenderness in the relations of life have gathered around him public approbation and public confidence.

We who have been associated with him here so long, mourn his loss with deepest sadness and regret.

A member of St. George's Church, he has always been valued and valuable, and it is with difficulty we can fill his place with one equally competent, equally willing, and equally efficient.

When we come to lift the veil, there is but one voice that can speak the sweet utterance from heaven, "It is I, be not afraid;" but one voice that can say to us, "When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." There is but one voice that can speak words of sweet comfort to those who trust in Christ.

We lay our loved ones away from our sight, trusting simply upon the wisdom of that infinite Saviour; and with the most affectionate union of prayer and faith, of

hope and of trust, we must leave them with Him who has declared that He will be a husband to the widow and a father to the fatherless.

May we rest secure in the precious promises of the Saviour. His love is ever over us, His arm is beneath, His smile is all around, and He will support and sustain and uphold those who love Him and trust in Him, until the very end of their career, and until the glory of the terrestrial is lost in the glory of the celestial forever.

Beloved, let us to-day look up and look forward. Soon for us the shadows must fall around us. Soon for us reality must be unfolded. Soon for us the business which occupies all to-day will occupy us no more. Soon for us the mysteries of the hereafter will be revealed. May we live in Jesus! May we walk in Jesus! May we glorify the Saviour's name! Let us do

with our might the work that the Master gives us to do. Let us rest secure in the sweet promises of Him who loved us and died for us, and, beyond the trials and afflictions of time, look forward with joyous and exultant heart to the glories of the bright hereafter, and to the heavenly world where sorrow and parting shall be no more, and where God shall wipe away the tears from all eyes.

I am here reminded of the Arab proverb: "We come into this life weeping while others rejoice; we depart rejoicing while others weep."

Nearer, my God, to Thee.

Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee,
E'en though it be a cross
That raiseth me ;
Still all my song shall be,
Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee !

Though like a wanderer,
Weary and lone,
Darkness comes over me,
My rest a stone ;
Yet in my dreams I'd be
Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee !

There let my way appear
Steps unto heaven,
All that thou sendest me
In mercy given ;
Angels to beckon me
Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee !

Then, with my waking thoughts
Bright with Thy praise,
Out of my stony griefs
Altars I'll raise ;
So by my woes to be
Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee !

Or, if on joyful wing,
Cleaving the sky,
Sun, moon, and stars forgot,
Upward I fly,
Still all my song shall be,
Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee !

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

At a meeting of the VESTRY OF ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, New York, held on Thursday, 18th November, 1875, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, Since the last meeting of this Vestry we have been called upon to mourn the death of WILLIAM T. BLODGETT, Esq., Senior Vestryman of this Church; therefore,

Resolved, That the following minute, prepared by the Rector, be entered in full upon the records of this corporation:

“WILLIAM TILDEN BLODGETT became a member of this Vestry at Easter, 1865. From his opening maturity he had been a member of this church. He was baptized and confirmed here. His life of remarkable earthly prosperity, and his peculiar and cultivated taste, amidst the gratification and encouragement of art and literature, gave him a prominent station among the younger men of the city and na-

tion. Surrounded as he was in life with all that was elegant and attractive in these relations, still his domestic and religious character gave him a reputation and influence yet more desirable. He was the faithful guardian of a widowed mother and orphan sisters. And to them, as well as to his own immediate household, his departure is a loss of all that was effective, as well as attractive, in his peculiar relations to his home. This Vestry was happily connected with him as an associate and active friend, and they thus record their sincere sorrow at his unexpected departure, and their grateful remembrance of his association with them in the responsible administration of this venerable and prosperous church. He entered into the promised rest of the disciples of the Lord, on Wednesday, the 4th of November, 1875."

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing minute, signed by the Rector and attested by the Clerk, be sent to the families of the deceased, and that the same be published in the "*Church Journal*" and the "*Churchman*."

STEPHEN H. TYNG, *Rector*.

Attest, HENRY P. MARSHALL,

Clerk of the Vestry.

At a meeting of the CENTURY ASSOCIATION, held on the second day of October, 1875, it was resolved:

That a Committee of three be appointed by the Chair, to prepare a memorial notice of the members of the Club deceased during the past summer.

The Chair appointed as such Committee, Messrs. Dorr, Henry R. Winthrop, and Macdonough.

At a subsequent meeting of the Association, held on the 4th day of December, the following memorial, prepared by Mr. Dorr, was read, and ordered to be printed:

It is not often, that on meeting again after our summer holidays, we find so many vacant places which were but lately occupied by some of our most honored associates. They had attained distinction in many pursuits, and the varied gifts and culture which they brought to our assemblage were worthy of the breadth of its foundation, and maintained its ideal standard. Their departure from among us calls for

some expression of our sense of their worth. The Century has assigned to its Committee the utterance of a few words of kindly remembrance before their names disappear from our roll.

Your Committee well hoped that they had completed this testimonial to so many honored associates, when they were informed of the decease of Mr. WILLIAM TILDEN BLODGETT. So widely was he known in the Century, and in social life, and so many were his claims to our regard, that while the topics of commendation are so numerous, they seem to render eulogy less necessary. It is but justice to ourselves that we should recall, in few words, his title to our respectful remembrance.

Mr. Blodgett was a native of Western New York, and received his earliest training in its schools. His first studies of the picturesque in nature were among its lakes and woods. These lessons of his youth never faded away. Through self dependence, even in boyhood, he gained an early development of vigorous character and will.

Coming to New York in early manhood, he entered upon commercial life with no special advantages of fortune. Whatever was wanting, he supplied by

integrity, by quickness of perception, and by accuracy of judgment in the choice of agents and associates. His course, thus begun, was marked by uprightness, energy, and eminent success. Early in his residence in New York he became a parishioner, and afterwards a vestryman, of St. George's Church. He accepted the position as a means for the accomplishment of practical good. During his whole service, ending only with his life, he was ever ready to give judicious counsel to those who sought it, and to those in need he was an unfailing benefactor and friend. His charities sought no publicity. They sometimes were, but oftener were not, known, and do not admit of intrusion or inquiry. His executive ability made him a valuable accession to all benevolent undertakings which he deemed to have a claim upon his sympathy, and some of these may ascribe to him the first beginnings of their success.

One of his kindly labors yielded, in later years, a singular and unexpected fruit. Before the occupation of Rome by the present Government of Italy, Mr. Blodgett, Mr. Botta, and a few others, became warmly interested in behalf of the Italians resident in New York, many of whom were men of education—

exiles of the old *régime*. To these they afforded relief and occupation in their necessity, and established schools for the education of their children. The occasion passed away, and Mr. Blodgett had almost ceased to retain it in his recollection. Years after, he visited Rome in furtherance of his artistic designs. He was surprised (on the day following his arrival) by a visit from an officer of rank in the king's service. He learned that Count Cavour had known and remembered the work which had been done in New York. Mr. Blodgett received a decoration and honorable attentions from King Victor Emmanuel, which aided him in his acquisition of valuable works of art.

Mr. Blodgett regarded increasing resources as imposing new responsibilities. He was not neglectful of intellectual culture. In his hours of leisure he became conversant with English history and poetry, and at a later day, by his studies in Continental literature, he became well versed in the history of Art. Not neglecting private charities, he rose to a wider view of the means of diffusing scientific knowledge and a better public taste. Of the American Museum of Natural History he was one of the earliest trus-

tees. The grateful testimonial of his associates has reminded us that he lent valuable aid in placing it upon a broad foundation, and in procuring the appropriation by which its permanence was secured. Early in his mercantile career he became known as a man of public spirit, who gave freely of his labor and income for the promotion of the general good.

The natural refinement of Mr. Blodgett's character and his delicacy of taste led to an interest in Art, especially in painting. His friendships with its professors were of early date. More than twenty years ago he had commenced the formation of a gallery of American Art, and his purchases were judicious and discriminating. He had made some progress, when his design was suddenly interrupted and laid aside. In the hour of its peril Mr. Blodgett became a most energetic and liberal supporter of the National Union. Was there need of money, nowhere was there a more liberal contributor, or one who knew better how to arouse the sympathies of others. Was a committee to be appointed for some laborious service, Mr. Blodgett's name was among the first which was suggested. Such duties he never declined or slighted. He was ready to aid in raising new levies for the field, and in

relief to the families of the disabled or dying. One of his patriotic services was so remarkable in its design and its results as to be worthy of especial commemoration. Mr. Blodgett was one of the chief promoters of the Fair in aid of the Sanitary Commission. He was early conversant with it, if it did not originate in his suggestions. During four months he gave it the full benefit of his administrative talent, and none could claim a larger share in its plan, its details, and its success. It contributed one million of dollars to the sanitary uses of the Army of the United States.

So many were the labors which he shared with others during the restless activity of the time, that it must suffice to mention but one beneficial work which Mr. Blodgett, almost alone, prompted and sustained. He made liberal provision for the publication of loyal and national tracts, from the pen of his friend Dr. Lieber, and others of our most eminent publicists and historical scholars. They entered with enthusiasm into his project. Their essays, thus given to the world, were everywhere reproduced by the daily press. They had no trifling influence in confirming the wavering and doubtful, and in enlightening

public conscience and opinion, both in America and Europe.

Quiet came again, and Mr. Blodgett resumed his purpose of diffusing an enlightened public taste. Soon after the war, a number of men of culture proposed the foundation of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Mr. Blodgett was one of the first who saw the value of the conception. By generous gifts, and by purchasing, at his own risk, an excellent representative collection of the Dutch and Flemish schools, he, with a few associates, gave to the Metropolitan Museum of Art its earliest title to its name. He assisted in perfecting the details of its plan, and in kindling the enthusiasm of others who could aid in its accomplishment. He saw its success assured, and left it with a future full of promise and hope.

In many of the best enterprises of the last ten years, Mr. Blodgett was in some manner active, as an originator or a promoter. Among these should be mentioned the establishment of a journal of the highest literary ability, which, in political philosophy and literary and artistic criticism, bears no unfavorable comparison with those of London and Paris. Mr. Blodgett was a principal founder of the *New York Nation*.

As years went on, Mr. Blodgett's views expanded with his resources, while he became more conversant with the history and literature of Art. He determined on the formation of a gallery of the best masters of America and Europe. For such a collection, "The Heart of the Andes" was a noble beginning. In prosecuting the work, his acquaintance with artists rendered him eminently successful. His enthusiasm grew with his acquisitions. He availed himself of the judgment of the ablest experts, and spared no expense for their services or their counsel. His own knowledge of his subject everywhere commanded respect. He had become well known in Italy, in Belgium, and in Paris, as one to whom nothing of inferior merit could be offered with any hope of success. The result was a rare assemblage of the best works of modern art. French, Dutch, and English landscape and portraiture were represented by specimens such as had not before been the prizes of an American collector. Some of these still remain in Europe. As others were brought to New York and placed upon his walls, they were freely opened to the view of students and lovers of art. Men eminent in letters, the welcome associates of many years, who were partak-

ers of his abundant hospitality, derived much gratification from the treasures which added to the social enjoyment of their genial possessor.

While so many liberal acts had given a widespread popularity to his name, Mr. Blodgett sought nothing from political life. He well knew that public office is not often, now, the school of public spirit. His zeal for public improvement showed itself in nobler ways—in the earnest performance of the duties of a citizen, through the press, in the cultivation of the public conscience and taste, and in giving the aid of his wealth and executive ability to institutions of benevolence. He labored with equal zeal, let us hope in the end with no less success, for the reform of our municipal institutions, and the requirement of a higher standard of character in public office.

Mr. Blodgett's private sympathies were not narrowed by prosperity. The successful business of many years did but increase the kindness which had marked his life, and which never faltered until its close. When friends had fallen upon adverse fortunes, and needed sympathy or aid, he did generous acts in the most delicate way. He conferred the deepest obligations with such natural refinement of feeling, that he

accomplished the highest good without wounding the sensibilities of the receiver. It is sufficient to make this brief reference to things which abound in the memory of the living, but which could not be further mentioned without awakening recollections which belong only to the sanctity of private life.

How far Mr. Blodgett would have prosecuted his designs for the promotion of artistic studies, what would have been the extent of his acquisitions, and what their ultimate destiny, it is useless to speculate. Let us hope that his labor may not be lost, that his collections may remain as the fittest monument of his liberal and far-seeing wisdom. His life, sadly shortened as it has been, has accomplished its object if other men can take up the burden where he laid it down—if it can be known, as he knew, that the true service of Art is not, as too often regarded, like that of plate and equipage, as the badge and decoration of social success. A School of Art founded under such degrading auspices produces nothing which the world cares to remember. It was not with such a collection that Mr. Blodgett hoped to associate his name. It was his ambition to create institutions through which a love of science, and a taste for things elevated and

refined, may come to be esteemed not as alien to, but as a part of, the things of daily life. He may thus be counted among those who, in private station, have labored for the highest public good, and have found that, unconsciously, they have achieved works more enduring than the rewards of party, and abiding the test of time.

With the Century, a society for the promotion of Science and Art, of which Mr. Blodgett was for sixteen years a member, his associations were of especial intimacy, and his departure will be sensibly felt among us. He was warmly interested in our prosperity, during four years filled some of our most responsible offices, and found great pleasure in frequent attendance at our special meetings. He brought to them the judgment and experience of a man of business not narrowed by his calling—a knowledge of Art and its history not perverted or made extravagant by sentiment or enthusiasm—an acquaintance with the literature as well as the politics and interests of the day. We have noted the wide variety of his topics—the facility of his recollection—the readiness with which his information became available—and, above all, the uprightness of his character, the kindliness of his

judgment, and his interest in the welfare of other men. In social as in graver hours, he inspired that regard which followed him through life, and with which we assembled to pay the last honors to his remains.

THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB,

NEW YORK, November, 1875.

The following resolutions, presented by the Executive Committee, were unanimously adopted at the meeting of the UNION LEAGUE CLUB, held November 11th, 1875:

The Members of the Union League Club desire to put on record an expression of their deep grief at the untimely death of Mr. WILLIAM T. BLODGETT, and their high appreciation of the value of his life and character. He was connected with this Club from the earliest period of its history, and always took a warm interest in its welfare, and an active part in its counsels and affairs. His eminent public spirit and generous patriotism never failed to enlist him as a zealous supporter of all plans for the public good; while his indomitable energy of purpose rendered his

aid powerful and effective. He was a singularly valuable and useful citizen, having ever at heart the best interests of this great city, in which his active years were spent, and where, by his own strength and virtue, he had risen to a leading position of wide and varied influence. He lost no opportunity to promote the prosperity of this community, and lavished his money, his time, and his personal exertions upon many public and charitable enterprises, which remain as his monuments. His hospitality was boundless, and his friendships lasting and sincere. In a long business career, which was marked by rapid and uniform success, he was distinguished for his high-toned morality and generous dealing, as much as for that enterprise and diligence by which he won credit and fortune.

The dignity of his life commanded the hearty respect of all with whom he came in contact; and his gentle manners, the natural index of his pure and manly heart, secured the confidence and affection of his fellows. We mourn for him as for the best of citizens and friends, and will cherish his memory as his great worth deserves.

Resolved, That copies of the foregoing be entered

on the minutes of the Club, and transmitted to the Press and to the family of Mr. Blodgett.

A true copy from the minutes.

At a quarterly meeting of the TRUSTEES OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, held at the Museum on the 15th of November, 1875—

Present: John Taylor Johnston, President, in the chair; J. Q. A. Ward, Theo. Weston, F. W. Rhineland, D. Huntington, S. P. Avery, Theo. Roosevelt, R. Gordon, W. C. Prime, Howard Potter, S. L. M. Barlow, and W. J. Hoppin—

The President announced to the Board the death of Mr. WILLIAM TILDEN BLODGETT, one of the Vice-Presidents, and presented a minute in relation to the character and services of Mr. Blodgett, which had been prepared at his request by Mr. W. J.

Hoppin, and which he desired, if it should meet with the approval of the Board, should be entered on its records.

The minute having been read, was, upon motion, ordered to be so entered, and is as follows :

MINUTE.

Mr. WILLIAM TILDEN BLODGETT, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, died at his residence in this city on the 4th day of November instant. He has been so closely connected with this institution from the beginning, that the Trustees feel it to be a duty and a privilege at this, their first meeting since his death, to record in their journal an expression of gratitude for his services, and sorrow for his loss. Having been conspicuous for many years in this community for his intelligent and liberal encouragement of Art, Mr. Blodgett was naturally regarded as an important auxiliary in the establishment of an Art Museum. He was one of the most efficient of the fifty gentlemen who founded our institution, and at the first election of officers, in January, 1870, was made Chairman of the Executive Committee.

After he resigned this post, on account of absence from the country, he was chosen a Vice-President, and continued to occupy this place until his death. During all this period he was one of the most industrious, sanguine, and judicious friends that the Museum possessed. He was largely instrumental in procuring the act of incorporation, and it was in a great degree owing to his energy, tact, and perseverance that the grant for the erection of a building was obtained from the Legislature. He was also one of the most active agents in soliciting funds from the public. In addition to his own generous gifts, he secured from others the largest contributions that were collected by any single individual.

His zeal in our behalf was not checked by his frequent absences in Europe. It was entirely through his timely and disinterested effort that the Dutch and Flemish pictures now in possession of the Museum were purchased at Brussels. His letters to his friends at home constantly showed his extraordinary interest in our enterprise; and one of them, written from the remote regions of Upper Egypt, was full of valuable suggestions for the future, and anxious solicitude for the acquisition of the Cesnola Collection.

It is not only for his work in the Museum that the cause of American Art is under lasting obligations to Mr. Blodgett. With few advantages of early education, and no youthful associations to direct his attention to pictures, his own natural refinement and keen perception of the beautiful induced him to cultivate their study; and when Providence, which does not always see fit to add to a taste for such pursuits the means of its gratification, was pleased to give him wealth, he found its most delightful employment in the encouragement of Art. He bought, among other valuable works, Church's "Heart of the Andes," and he exercised that cordial and elegant hospitality toward artists—the most obscure and struggling as well as the most eminent—which is sometimes as strong a stimulus to effort as the purchase of their works. After his repeated visits to Europe, it was interesting to observe how his ability as a connoisseur increased. His own judgment became more precise and accurate, and he also had the sagacity to consult competent advisers. He was courageous, as well as fortunate, in his purchases; and at the time of his death owned a remarkable collection of works of the best period of the Dutch, Flemish, French, and

English schools, several specimens of which have been reproduced as masterpieces by etchings in foreign Art journals.

With this knowledge and unaffected love of the fine arts, Mr. Blodgett had a thorough conviction of the importance of cultivating them at home, and seeing that justice should be done to our own school in the eyes of the world. He was a diligent worker in the committee which selected the American collection for the French Exhibition of 1867, and was also a member of the advisory body which is performing a similar service for the "Centennial Exhibition" in Philadelphia. In all these enterprises he has shown the same generous liberality and the same sanguine temper which he has constantly manifested at our Board, and which has done more to stimulate the efforts of others than can adequately be measured by words.

The Trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in recording these obligations of the public toward Mr. Blodgett, cannot omit to express their own personal sorrow at an event which has deprived them of the companionship of a Christian gentleman, whose noble presence, gracious manner, and inspiring voice

have rendered our progress always pleasant, and sometimes, when we most needed encouragement, comparatively easy

Upon motion, the following resolution was also unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That a copy of the above minute be sent to the family of the late Mr. Blodgett, with the assurance of the sincere sympathy of this Board with them in their great affliction.

A true copy from the minutes.

JOHN TAYLOR JOHNSTON, *President*.

WM. J. HOPPIN, *Secretary*.

At the annual meeting of the TRUSTEES OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, held in the city of New York, November 8, 1875, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That in the death of Mr. WILLIAM T. BLODGETT we are called upon to mourn the loss of no ordinary man. One of the earliest Trustees of

this Institution, he was not only mainly instrumental in obtaining the appropriation which will place it upon a permanent basis, but in every way, with untiring energy, remarkable executive ability, and unselfish willingness to spend time and means in the service of the public, he devoted himself to its interests. As his personal friends, each of us will miss a genial companion, who lightened our labors by his cheerful and hearty co-operation, and won our admiration by the nobleness of his character.

Resolved, That we express to his family our sincere sorrow and deep sympathy in their bereavement.

Resolved, That a copy of this minute be engrossed, signed by the president, and forwarded to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That a copy be published in the daily papers of this city.

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY,
NEW YORK.

Resolved, That this Society desires to place on record the earnest and heartfelt sense of the heavy

loss it has sustained in the death of WILLIAM TILDEN BLODGETT, for many years a member of its council, and to whose active exertions, wise advice, and warm sympathy it is indebted for much of its advancement and prosperity. In him art, science, and literature found their truest, most substantial, and most generous friend, and to his disinterested and self-sacrificing efforts on behalf of these and other vital interests he brought the charm and the benefit of the most winning and exquisite sensibility, coupled with the firmest and most steadfast endeavor. At all times and in all places his testimony was with the right and for the right, and we recognize in the beauty of his example the greatest of all the many benefits he conferred.

Resolved, That we sincerely sympathize with his bereaved family in the irreparable loss they have sustained, and that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to them by the secretary.

Adopted November 11, 1875.

ABRAM S. SOUTHWORTH,

Recording Secretary.

WEST LEBANON, N. H ,

November 16, 1875.

At a meeting of the TRUSTEES OF TILDEN SEMINARY, holden on the 13th instant, the following resolutions were presented, and unanimously adopted :

Whereas, It has pleased the Lord in the dispensation of his providence to remove by death WILLIAM TILDEN BLODGETT, the President of this Board, thus leaving us without a head, and causing our hearts to mourn ; and,

Whereas, In all our intercourse we have ever found him the friend of the Seminary, the genial and unselfish companion, the true gentleman ; therefore,

Resolved, That while we recognize whose hand has done this thing, and that His ways are inscrutable, we are filled with grief at the loss we are called upon to sustain, and are warned to be also ready, for no man knoweth the day of his end.

Resolved, That in our hearts we will cherish the memory of all his acts for the good and future usefulness of the Seminary, esteeming it in him a labor of

love, and be admonished to a renewed interest in the charge which has been placed upon us.

Resolved, That the sympathy of this Board be extended to the family and immediate relatives of Mr. Blodgett, and a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to them.

Very respectfully,

W. P. BURTON, *Secretary*.

NEW YORK, December 6, 1875.

At a meeting of the MANAGERS OF THE "FEMALE CHRISTIAN HOME," held on the 11th of November ultimo, the following resolution was adopted :

That a committee be appointed to draft suitable resolutions expressive of the condolence of the Managers of the Female Christian Home upon the death of Mr. WILLIAM T. BLODGETT.

The committee duly reported the following :

Whereas, It has pleased the Almighty Father to

call to his heavenly rest our late co-worker and esteemed friend, WILLIAM T. BLODGETT ; and,

Whereas, His loss is irreparable, not only to us whom he aided in works of charity, but to the whole community in which he lived ; therefore,

Resolved, That in the death of William T. Blodgett we mourn as for one whose departure from among us has left a vacancy which can only be filled when the Great Father of All shall give us another friend equally exalted in his public character, equally pure in his private life, and equally generous and noble in his sympathies for the ills of others.

Resolved, That in the death of William T. Blodgett the Female Christian Home has lost a true and earnest friend ; one who was among the first to nurture it, among the foremost to aid it in its growth, and among the last to give it succor before he was called to enter into his reward as one who had “ fought the good fight,” and to his latest breath had “ kept the faith.”

Resolved, That the heartfelt thanks of the Board of Managers of the Female Christian Home are hereby tendered to the family of the deceased, and

the secretary is hereby directed to transmit to them a copy of these resolutions.

Yours very truly,

MRS. ETHAN ALLEN, *Secretary*.

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART,

November 16, 1875.

DEAR MRS. BLODGETT: Will you allow me, as the representative of an institution which your good husband loved so well, and served so faithfully, to convey to you the minute and resolution which the officers and trustees of the Museum have adopted on the occasion of his lamented death.

Having been honored with his friendship for many years, I claimed the privilege of writing a few words of eulogy; but no one can be more sensible than I am how imperfectly they describe both the excellence of his character, and our sorrow at his loss.

I beg you to believe that our assurance of sympathy with his family in their affliction is not a mere formal ceremony, but comes from our inmost hearts.

I remain, dear Mrs. Blodgett, most respectfully and truly yours,

WM. J. HOPPIN, *Secretary*.

Mrs. W. T. BLODGETT.

At the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES, held Feb. 9, 1876, the following preamble and resolution, presented by Mr. Henry G. Marquand, were unanimously adopted:

The passing away from us of such an exceptional character as Mr. WILLIAM T. BLODGETT deserves more than a slight notice. His connection with this Society dates from its beginning, and resulted from a conviction that its aims and objects were of such importance to the public good that he promptly recognized the duty, and freely bestowed much time in advancing its welfare. In several departments his efforts deserve special mention. His extensive acquaintance throughout the country enabled him to render valuable assistance in establishing its agencies;

his labors were arduous in the first building committee, and for a considerable period in the finance committee. To him the Society is indebted for much that is valuable in the working of its business, for his practical good sense, for his constant sympathy in its rapid and extraordinary growth, for his intelligent activity and consistent discharge of his trusteeship.

It is hereby resolved, That we record with unfeigned sorrow the departure from our councils of Mr. WILLIAM T. BLODGETT, and desire to place on the minutes our high esteem of the valuable services rendered by him to this Society ; his warm and constant sympathy with all the plans of its officers ; his varied information and culture, made useful to the Society, and adding influence and lustre by reason of his connection with it.

Resolved, That in endearing himself greatly to us by the generous qualities of his heart, his pure unselfishness and self-sacrifice, we cherish his memory, and tender our sincerest respects and sympathy for our common loss to his family, and ask their acceptance of a copy of this record.

I certify that the above is a true copy from the minutes of the Board.

SAMUEL BORROW, *Secretary*.

NEW YORK, November 6, 1875.

At a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the WEST SIDE ASSOCIATION, held this day, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That we deeply lament the death of Mr. WILLIAM TILDEN BLODGETT, the President of this Association, and desire to express our high appreciation of his character and worth.

Resolved, That his wise counsels, and active and efficient support, have been of great value to this Association, and that his courteous manner and genial nature make his death felt as a personal loss by each of his associates.

Resolved, That by his death the community has been deprived of one of its most generous, useful, and public-spirited citizens, who was ever ready to contribute liberally both of his time and means to whatever tended to promote its prosperity and best interests.

Resolved, That these resolutions be published, and a copy sent to the family of the deceased.

FRANCIS M JENCKS, *Secretary*.

NATIONAL PARK BANK,

NEW YORK, NOV. 8, 1875.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors, held this day, the following expressions of condolence and sympathy were unanimously adopted, and ordered to be engrossed on the minutes :

Whereas, In the death of WILLIAM TILDEN BLODGETT we recognize that the mercantile interest of the city of New York has lost one of its brightest ornaments, and that Art, of which he was a distinguished patron, has lost one of its most appreciative and devoted friends ; whilst the social element of our city will long remember his genial and agreeable manners ;

And whereas, This Board, in an intimate intercourse of fifteen years, have come to know his many excellencies of mind and heart ; therefore,

Resolved, In respect for his memory, that we attend his funeral in a body, and that a copy of these resolutions be sent to his family.

WM. K. KITCHEN, *President*.

J. L. WORTH.

PACIFIC MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY,

NEW YORK, Jan. 20, 1876.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of this Company, held this date, the President having announced the death of Mr. BLODGETT, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, Since the last meeting of this Board of Trustees, it has pleased Almighty God to remove from our midst by death our esteemed friend and associate, WILLIAM TILDEN BLODGETT; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Board mourns, in the death of Mr. Blodgett, the loss of a faithful and able Trustee, and an agreeable associate; but they, in common with all his friends, have the consolation of recollecting a life well spent, and that, having died the death of the righteous, his last end is peace.

Resolved, That we tender to the widow and family of the deceased our heartfelt sympathy in their great bereavement, and trust they may be sustained by the many consolations that attend the close of such a life.

Resolved, That the foregoing preamble and resolu-

tions be entered on the minutes of the Board, and a copy of the same be sent to the family of the deceased.

WILLOUGHBY POWELL, *Secretary*.

MERCANTILE TRUST COMPANY,

NEW YORK, NOV. 11, 1875.

At a meeting of the Directors of this Company, held this day, the following resolutions were adopted :

Resolved, That this Board learns with deepest regret the demise of one of its earliest and most valued members, MR. WILLIAM T. BLODGETT.

That his correct judgment, united with rare executive abilities, made his generous support to this Company of great value.

That we appreciate the faithful services and warm sympathy which he from the start manifested in the prosperity of this Company, and desire to place on its records the high esteem we have of his memory as a good adviser and faithful friend.

Resolved, That these resolutions be placed in the minutes, and a copy be transmitted to his family.

WM. MILES, *Secretary*.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PRESS.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PRESS.

[*From the* EVENING POST.]

The death of WILLIAM TILDEN BLODGETT, which occurred yesterday at his house, No. 9 West Ninth street in this city, will be deeply regretted by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances here, as well as in Europe, where he was also widely known. He was a native of Western New York, and came to this city in 1838, and began his business life as a clerk in the old commission house of Messrs. Dows & Cary. Two years later his uncle, the late Mr. William Tilden, who was at that time carrying on the business of manufacturing varnishes, took him into partnership. Mr. Blodgett entered into his new business with great enthusiasm, and at once reorganized the concern with profit to his uncle and himself.

From this time Mr. Blodgett enjoyed a career of uninterrupted prosperity, and from a comparatively

small beginning made the concern one of the largest and wealthiest in the United States.

He was from the beginning an ardent art connoisseur, and for several years previous to 1870 his home was the resort of the artists and the scene of many reunions. The brilliancy of some of these receptions will long be remembered by those who were so fortunate as to participate in them.

His house on Fifth avenue he afterward altered into a mercantile house, owing to the demand for shops in that neighborhood, and visited Europe for the education of his children. His health failed about this time, and he settled in Dresden, but passed several months in each year in New York in the supervision of his business.

At the organization of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Mr. Blodgett was one of the original incorporators and subscribed liberally toward its endowment. Soon after the organization of the institution, during a visit to Europe, he purchased the famous Belgian and Flemish collection of early paintings, which now forms one of the leading attractions in the Museum collection. The money, \$150,000, he advanced from his private means. This purchase was greatly crit-

icised by ignorant persons at the time, but the wisdom displayed by Mr. Blodgett in making it is now universally acknowledged. Mr. Blodgett was also a liberal subscriber to the National Academy of Design, and his public spirit has been felt in all directions in aid of Art. During his visits to Europe, he became a large purchaser of paintings on his own account, and his collection of foreign pictures is one of the most valuable in the United States. It is composed of important works solely, and includes De Camp's "Suicide;" Gerome's "Pride of the Harem;" and others by Meissonier, Jules Dupré, Thomas Couture, Louis Knaus, Troyon, Th. Rousseau and Rosa Bonheur.

At the sale of the famous collection of the Duc d'Orléans many of the choicest works were reported in the English papers as having been bought by an "American gentleman." The buyer was Mr. Blodgett. At the "Retrospective Exhibition" in Paris, last season, Mr. Blodgett secured several fine specimens of English art, representing the names of Sir Joshua Reynolds, Sir Thomas Lawrence, Gainsborough, and others.

In his love for foreign art Mr. Blodgett did not forget his American artist friends, and was a liberal

buyer from the studios. His most important purchase in this direction was Church's "Heart of the Andes," for which he paid \$20,000. He also owned fine works by Eastman Johnson, the Harts, Gifford, Huntington, and indeed of almost every artist of any eminence in the country. His collection of paintings is estimated to be worth at least \$250,000.

Mr. Blodgett purchased a number of lots on Fifth avenue several years ago with the intention of building for himself a home large enough to hold his art treasures, and, had he lived, he would have carried the plan into execution. He was a man of kindly impulses, and his hand and purse were always ready to aid the unfortunate. He was a welcome guest in social circles, and a member of the Century and Union League clubs.

He leaves a wife and two children—a son and daughter—to mourn his loss, besides a wide circle of relatives, to whom he was endeared by many kindly acts. His private fortune was very large, and there is no doubt it will be wisely distributed in his will. During last summer Mr. Blodgett's health had been poor. He spent a part of the time at Newport, where he was the owner of the famous "Barreda

Mansion," but in August made a visit to the White Mountains. While there he had an attack of pleurisy, and the exhaustion produced by this disease was the immediate cause of his death. His age was fifty-two years.

[*From the NEW YORK TIMES, Nov. 6, 1875.*]

Mr. WILLIAM TILDEN BLODGETT, an old and highly esteemed citizen of this city, died at his residence, No. 9 West Ninth street, on Thursday, the 4th inst., in the fifty-second year of his age. He was born in the Western part of New York, and came to this city in the year 1838. His first experience in business life was in the capacity of clerk in the old commission house of Messrs. Dows & Cary. He continued there until two years afterward, when he was taken into partnership by his uncle, the late William Tilden, who was engaged in the varnish manufacturing business. Mr. Blodgett's success in this occupation was very great, and he made it exceedingly profitable both to himself and his uncle. The establishment finally became one of the wealthiest and most extensive in

the country. After building up for himself a large fortune in the business of a varnish manufacturer, Mr. Blodgett became interested in real estate, and purchased valuable property on Fifth avenue, in this city, and also in Newport, R. I., in which place he has spent a considerable portion of the last two years of his life. Mr. Blodgett was a cultivated admirer of Art, and gathered together a large and very costly collection of oil paintings, selected from among the works of both European and American artists. His collection is valued at \$250,000. Among his purchases of American paintings was Church's "Heart of the Andes" for \$20,000, and numerous fine specimens from Eastman Johnson, the Harts, Gifford, Huntington, and others. Among his selections from the works of European artists are De Camp's "Suicide" and Gerome's "Pride of the Harem." Mr. Blodgett was a member of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and of the Century and Union League clubs. To him the former is indebted for the valuable collection of paintings acquired by it a few years ago. During the last summer Mr. Blodgett's health was very poor, and his death on Thursday last was not wholly unexpected. His funeral will take place from

St. George's Protestant Episcopal Church in Stuyvesant square, on Monday morning, the 8th inst., at 10 o'clock.

[*From the NEW YORK TRIBUNE, Nov. 8, 1875.*]

The universal regret and respect in the midst of which the mortal remains of WILLIAM TILDEN BLODGETT will to-day be carried to the grave, form the most unquestioned testimony of the value of lives like his, filled with earnest and unobtrusive goodness and unselfish public spirit. His name has never been inscribed upon banners or headquarters flags. His amiable and handsome features were unknown to the crowds who are familiar with those of sordid politicians. But among the intelligent and cultivated people of this community, it will be everywhere said that he has hardly left his equal behind him in worth and positive value. He was too modest and reserved a gentleman to put himself forward as a popular champion; but every work of charity and benevolence found in him a hearty contributor of money and time. He belonged to that class of citizens against which it is the delight of demagogues to array the working

classes. He was a gentleman and a capitalist, and never pretended to palliate or deny either offense ; but he was, in the best and truest sense, the friend of every honest man who made an honest living, and to the poor, whom either vice or misfortune had brought low, he was untiring in sympathy and help. He did not brawl in clubs and primaries about his patriotism ; but New York knew no patriot more devoted, and few so intelligent. In a country less busily practical than ours, he might have been known merely by the grace and charm of his manners, his exquisite geniality and refinement. But this was only the ornament of an unusually active and useful existence. He was drawn by his temperament and tastes to a life of ease and artistic enjoyment. But he was too thorough an American to give himself up to the pleasures of a purely æsthetic existence. He was as good and industrious a worker as any merchant or manufacturer or projector among us. He was not idle or selfish even in his love of Art. The fine beginnings of our Metropolitan Museum are due in great part to his liberality and energy, and his patronage of American Art was as generous as it was discriminating. His name has rarely appeared in our ephemeral chronicles which record the struggles

of vastly inferior men for place or pelf. But all who knew him deplore his loss as a sorrow to themselves and a misfortune to the community. He was in the prime of life. A full and admirable career of labor and enjoyment seemed still before him. But a Providence whose wisdom he would never have questioned has taken him away when he appeared most needed and most useful, and nothing is left to his friends but the thought of the good he did while he lived, the support of his example, and the memory of his charming and gracious companionship, which distinguished him as one of the most winning and genial of men.

[*From the NEW YORK WORLD, Saturday, November 6, 1875.*]

WILLIAM TILDEN BLODGETT died at his residence, No. 9 West Ninth street, in this city, on Thursday, and will be buried from St. George's Church, Stuyvesant square, on Monday morning at 10.

Mr. Blodgett was born in the Western part of this State in 1823. Removing to this city in 1838, he was, during two years, a clerk in the commission house of Dows & Cary, but at the end of that time

his uncle, the late William Tilden, took him into partnership in the manufacture of varnishes. As a business man he was eminently successful, accumulating a large fortune, which has enabled him of late years to indulge his lifelong taste for works of art.

To Mr. Blodgett is due the collection of classical paintings in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. These paintings were purchased by him in Belgium and Paris during the Franco-Prussian war. At any other time their purchase would hardly have been possible. Brought to this country, they were offered by Mr. Blodgett to the Museum for \$125,000, and after considerable discussion among the trustees of that institution were finally purchased by them for that sum. To Mr. Blodgett also is attributed the merit of bettering the fortunes of American artists. His purchase of Church's "Heart of the Andes" for \$20,000 marked the era of high prices for native work. Of late years Mr. Blodgett turned his attention more to foreign paintings, large numbers of which he purchased; at the same time he was not neglectful of American merit, and his purchase of Church's picture was followed by others from Gifford, the Harts, Eastman Johnson, Huntington, and others. His collection contains

paintings by Rosa Bonheur, Rousseau, Couture, Dupré, Meissonier, Knaus, the "Suicide" of De Camp, Gerome's "Pride of the Harem," and many others.

Mr. Blodgett was widely known in Europe as well as in this country. His extensive purchases of pictures were often remarked by foreign journals. Even last year, at the "Retrospective Exhibition" in Paris, Mr. Blodgett was enabled to secure works of Reynolds and Lawrence and Gainsborough.

Mr. Blodgett's rare executive ability made him eagerly sought as an aid in every kind of charitable enterprise. The Sanitary Fair, held at the Armory in Fourteenth street during the war, was largely indebted for its success to Mr. Blodgett. He not only gave liberally of money, but devoted to it almost his entire time during its continuance.

At the time of his death Mr. Blodgett was contemplating building a new house of a size sufficient to accommodate his art collection. He had purchased several lots at the upper end of Fifth avenue for this purpose. For a long time Mr. Blodgett lived on Fifth avenue, in a house just below Twenty-third street. From there he moved to West Twenty-sixth street, near Trinity Chapel, and again to the house in Ninth

street, where his family still live. Mr. Blodgett was always a liberal host; he had many friends, among the artists in particular, and of these there were frequent gatherings at his house.

Mr. Blodgett's health had been poor for some time past. Last summer he was so much an invalid that he was obliged to leave his Newport residence—the house formerly owned by Senor Barreda, the Peruvian Minister—and resort to the White Mountains. While there he contracted a pleurisy, which was the cause of his death. Mr. Blodgett leaves a wife and two children—a son and a daughter.

[*From the* COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER.]

WILLIAM TILDEN BLODGETT died at his residence in this city, yesterday. Mr. Blodgett was for many years a large manufacturer and dealer in varnishes. For the past year or two he has lived in Newport, occupying one of the finest houses there. Mr. Blodgett was one of the proprietors and managers of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and it is almost entirely to him that New York is indebted for the fine collec-

tion of old paintings acquired three or four years ago. For years Mr. Blodgett was one of the most liberal patrons of American Art, as well as one of the most judicious buyers of foreign pictures. His purchase of Church's "Heart of the Andes" for \$20,000 marked the beginning of better prices for American artists. He was a man of most genial and winning habits, and was universally popular in business and social circles, both here and in Newport, and will be widely missed. He was a member of the Century Club, of the Union League Club, and many other social and literary associations. Mr. Blodgett was fifty-two years of age at the time of his death. Mr. Blodgett, like a great many of the distinguished men of New York, commenced life as a poor boy, and dies leaving a good name and a large property for his family.

[*From the* EVENING MAIL.]

THE DEATH OF MR. BLODGETT.

The death of Mr. WILLIAM T. BLODGETT has already been made by us the subject of regretful reference. The loss of such a man, at such a time, is, in a certain

sense, a public calamity. As his mortal part is to-day committed to the tomb, the sorrowing sympathy of thousands to whom in life he was a benefactor, friend, and comforter, will go out towards that inner circle of mourners to whom he was as the apple of the eye. Seldom has a private, unofficial citizen of New York gone down to death leaving so fragrant a memory or so sincere a sorrowing behind. In another column a correspondent expresses for himself (and we feel sure for others also), that sense of loss which Mr. Blodgett's death has forced upon so many of us. And the *Tribune* of this morning contains a tribute which we find so appreciative and so true that its quotation here will, we know, be acceptable to many of our readers :

“ The universal regret and respect in the midst of which the mortal remains of WILLIAM TILDEN BLODGETT will to-day be carried to the grave, form the most unquestioned testimony of the value of lives like his, filled with earnest and unobtrusive goodness and unselfish public spirit. His name has never been inscribed upon banners or headquarters flags. His amiable and handsome features were unknown to the crowds who are familiar with those of sordid politicians. But among the intelligent and cultivated people of this community, it will be everywhere said that he has hardly left his equal behind him in worth and positive value.

He was too modest and reserved a gentleman to put himself forward as a popular champion ; but every work of charity and benevolence found in him a hearty contributor of money and time. He belonged to that class of citizens against which it is the delight of demagogues to array the working classes. He was a gentleman and a capitalist, and never pretended to palliate or deny either offense ; but he was, in the best and the truest sense, the friend of every honest man who made an honest living, and to the poor, whom either vice or misfortune had brought low, he was untiring in sympathy and help. He did not brawl in clubs and primaries about his patriotism ; but New York knew no patriot more devoted and few so intelligent. In a country less busily practical than ours, he might have been known merely by the grace and charm of his manners, his exquisite geniality and refinement. But this was only the ornament of an unusually active and useful existence. He was drawn by his temperament and tastes to a life of ease and artistic enjoyment. But he was too thorough an American to give himself up to the pleasures of a purely æsthetic existence. He was as good and industrious a worker as any merchant or manufacturer or projector among us. He was not idle or selfish, even in his love of Art. The fine beginnings of our Metropolitan Museum are due in great part to his liberality and energy, and his patronage of American Art was as generous as it was discriminating. His

name has rarely appeared in our ephemeral chronicles, which record the struggles of vastly inferior men for place or pelf. But all who knew him deplore his loss as a sorrow to themselves and a misfortune to the community. He was in the prime of life. A full and admirable career of labor and enjoyment seemed still before him. But a Providence whose wisdom he would never have questioned has taken him away when he appeared most needed and most useful, and nothing is left to his friends but the thought of the good he did while he lived, the support of his example, and the memory of his charming and gracious companionship, which distinguished him as one of the most winning and genial of men."

[*From the* EVENING MAIL.]

As a rule, obituary notices are very unreliable presentations of character. Even of bad men admirable eulogies and elegies are written. To say "nothing of the dead but good" is almost recognized as a law. The magnificent Episcopal burial service draws no line between the good and the bad. This is so much the case that unless substantiated by documentary evidence the man of the world and the philosopher throw this class of composition aside with the feeling

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that it belongs to the category denounced by the apostle as that which "maketh a lie."

In the case before us the writer can speak justly and truly of the dead. He met Mr. Blodgett in the busy world amid scenes when men develop their natural dispositions and cease to act a part. It is with deep regret the news of his decease has been received. Men are not taken away except in God's good time, and yet according to finite judgment he was taken away too soon. Many of greater pretension and apparent influence could have been better spared. Mr. Blodgett was a gentleman not alone in the ordinary fallacious acceptance of the word, but in the truest sense of it. He was as agreeable in his manners as in his appearance, and both were very attractive. Courteous in his business relations, prompt, energetic, he united the rare gifts of being able to protect his own interests without invading those of others, or wounding the feelings of those whose interest clashed with his. In him New York has lost a valuable citizen, and without the slightest flattery it can be said that his death has made a void which it will not be easy to fill. These observations of a disinterested witness, however devoid of elegance as a memorial of

his worth, are laid as funeral flowers upon the sarcophagus of a man very pleasant in his life, and worthy of being held up as an example, and cherished in the memory of acquaintances and friends.

ANCHOR.

[*From HARPER'S WEEKLY.*]

Mr. WILLIAM TILDEN BLODGETT, who died in this city on the 4th inst., was one of the most widely known and highly esteemed of the business men of New York. For five-and-twenty years he had maintained a position of prominence not only in commercial circles, but in organizations for benevolent purposes, especially those whose object was the elevation of the public taste in matters of art, and bringing its practical benefits within the reach of all. From the commencement of his career he had been known throughout the country as one of the truest and most helpful friends of artists, especially those commencing the struggle for reputation, and one of the most liberal of their patrons. He was a gentleman in the highest and best sense of the term—intelligent, cultivated, courteous, generous, possessed of the soundest judg-

ment and an integrity that was spotless. The death of such a man is a great public loss.

[*From the BOSTON ADVERTISER.*]

New York has lost in the death of this gentleman one of the most influential of her citizens, and one of the kindest; a man of sweet and commendable generousities. His life was devoted to good purposes, to all the "charities that soothe and heal and bless" mankind. His name was the synonym for genuine hospitality, for whatever is best in private and public life, and his memory bears no spot or blemish upon it to mar the record of its purity. Whoever came within his courteous sphere recognized at once the gentleness of an elevated character, and the worth of a disinterested nature. Want, that was entitled to a helping hand, never made an appeal to him in vain. His refined and beautiful presence was a ready introduction wherever he moved, and in Europe his face made friends before his letters of introduction were examined.

During the war his purse was open and ready for

his country's need, and no paper in aid of patriotic efforts was ever handed around New York without having the name of WILLIAM BLODGETT among the first and largest donors upon it. He was a well-known lover of Art, a liberal patron of noble works of genius, a public-spirited, unselfish citizen; but his unheralded private virtues shine also like stars, and will never be forgotten by those who have known him best.

J. T. F.

[*Special Correspondence of the EVENING MAIL.*]

CINCINNATI, Jan 17.

ETCHINGS OF JULES JACQUEMART.

Your readers are probably well aware of the popular collection of etchings by Jules Jacquemart, of the Dutch and Belgian pictures, in the Metropolitan Museum. Those etchings are the finest work of one of the most masterly artists now living. In common with Fleming, and other French etchers, Jacquemart has a marvelous faculty in the representation of brilliant effects of light and shade. The objects brought into high relief are glowing with light; the

meadows, instead of a mass of black ink, opaque and flat, are full of atmospheric and transparent color. These etchings, which help to bring the masterpieces in your Museum within the knowledge of a large public, and give pleasure to art-lovers all over the world, are really among the most remarkable productions of the art of engraving. If it has been a notable enterprise thus to repeat great works of art, what shall be said of that public spirit and appreciation of the rare and beautiful in historical painting, which brought the original pictures into the possession of the city of New York and this country ?

WILLIAM T. BLODGETT.

Those of us in the West who knew Mr. Blodgett, who had enjoyed the pleasure of his personal presence, his genial manner, his keen appreciation of all that was benevolent, patriotic, and artistic ; to those far distant from him, his death came as a sad surprise. It is a loss which we cannot yet realize. In a great city like New York, in order that his name shall stand out for good prominently from the vast crowds, a man must perform signal acts of public benefit. Among the many services which graced the daily life of Mr. Blodgett,

none will be remembered more lastingly than that of gathering the pictures to which I have referred.

The most important and authoritative of all the foreign art publications is the Paris *Gazette des Beaux Arts*.

In its May number for 1872 it has an article which may add interest to the history of these pictures, and add a leaf to the chaplet of fame to be wreathed in honor of Mr. Blodgett. It says:

“Numerous opportunities came to the hardy promoters of the Metropolitan Museum of New York, during the terrible events of the years of 1870-71, but Mr. Blodgett was wise. He resisted his own impatience, overcame the passion to go on at once, and imposed upon himself the obligation to buy nothing without the formal advice and recommendation of the most competent judges. He resolved to put himself under the counsel of a man whose honor and knowledge had been guaranteed by all the connoisseurs. This man was M. Etienne Leroy, expert of the Royal Museum of Belgium.

“It was only after the most minute and critical examination of each picture that the three collections were acquired, the first of one hundred, the second of

fifty, the third of fifteen, all of which form the point of departure of the first American museum. The citizen, ardently devoted to the grandeur of his country, who without hesitation threw a part of his fortune into this enterprise, so disinterested, had not even the authorization of his colleagues to begin purchases. He made them at his own risk and peril, knowing perfectly well that it would be at his own loss should his selections prove to be bad. But a long experience of affairs, in a country where business operations are conducted on a large scale, had given Mr. Blodgett a clear sight, and he was as well served by his advisers as by events."

In two intelligently written articles the *Gazette* describes these pictures, and from the high praises it gives them, it is a matter for decided congratulation that we have in the United States a collection of pictures of undoubted originality, and at the same time of genuine merit, for the two facts are not always found to keep company. The acts of a man's life are said to be his best monument, but in order to be of benefit to the world, they must be known. Would it not be a graceful act of recognition of Mr. Blodgett's

services in the Metropolitan Museum to call these pictures

THE BLODGETT COLLECTION?

The names of Albert Jacquemart and Jules Jacquemart, in their relation to etchings, bring to mind that of his father, Albert Jacquemart, who recently died in Paris. If possible, the father is more celebrated as a writer, and especially upon Faïence, than is Jules as an engraver. The work, so well known, entitled "History, Artistic, Industrial, and Commercial, of Porcelain," is but a small part of the treatises, histories, and descriptions he has given of pottery, porcelain, and the entire ceramic art.

During his life he made one of the most complete and precious collections of the art to which he had devoted himself. It was especially rich in Chinese and Japanese ware. I see that this collection has been bought by M. Adrien Dubouche, who has presented it to the city of Limoges. A hall, having the name of "Jacquemart," has been specially devoted to the exhibition of this collection, in the Musée Céramique, founded and directed by M. Dubouche. It would seem to be a most proper disposition of a collection of this sort, that it should be preserved in the

old city which has given its name to a style of pottery now eagerly sought after by collectors.

During the twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries, the manufactories of Limoges produced not only countless objects of art in pottery and enameled ware, but it gave birth to artists like Raymond and Courtois.

COLLECTIONS OF FAIENCE.

The people of wealth of this country are already beginning to take the fever for making collections of pottery and chinaware which has raged for many years in France, and which the exhibition at South Kensington Museum has imparted to the English people. I have said that "people of wealth" are making such collections, for if the collector attempts to ornament the shelves of his cabinet with specimens of Majolica, Della Robbia, Limoges, old Sevres, and so on, he will find it requires a deep purse. The prices paid for such wares are enormous; putting aside the works of Pailissey, Courtois, the Henri Deux ware, and a few others which are as costly as pearls and diamonds. But if one wishes to decorate their mantelpieces, armoires, and hanging shelves with objects of taste and beauty, it is not neces-

sary to exhaust your bank account by the purchase of those things which oftentimes have value from their historical interest rather than artistic merit. Fortunately France and England are constantly bringing to us all kinds of chinaware of beautiful shapes and of little cost, while China and Japan pour into our markets a multitude of objects whose form and color are marvels of beauty. There is no reason, then, why even a poor man should not surround himself with these articles of grace and of use as well.

MODERN ART PROGRESS IN OBJECTS OF USE.

It is an interesting fact in the progress of taste in modern times, that extraordinary advancement has been made in the improvement and beauty of commonplace things, such as are used in the houses of all classes—cups, platters, pitchers, vases, chairs, tables, bureaus, and other articles of house furniture. There is not so much difference between the higher works of art, such as sculpture, painting, and architecture. Indeed, in sculpture and architecture, the ancients, if not the mediæval artists, excel the moderns. But of those things which are within the possession of the common laborer, the products of to-day excel those

of the past both in tasteful form and color and in their ingenious adaptation to the needs of daily life.

This letter was begun with the intention of saying something about Mr. Henry Probasco, of this city, and his plan for the establishment of a grand museum here, but the expression of other thoughts has taken up the space which a newspaper correspondent ought not to exceed. The subject is therefore reserved for another occasion.

HASTINGS.

[*From the AMERICAN REGISTER, Paris, France.*]

In the recent death of WILLIAM T. BLODGETT the Museum suffers a great loss. He was one of its projectors and managers, and at its beginning advanced over a hundred thousand dollars to secure a valuable collection of Belgian pictures. Moreover, he was one of the "choice spirits" of the earth, whose noble activity and generosity during life afford some compensation when death comes, for, after all, they are those we can best afford to spare whose lives have already achieved great and permanent results. Mr. Blodgett was only fifty-two years old, but for several

years—especially from the outbreaking of the rebellion—he had been one of the notable men of New York. Having already acquired a handsome fortune from a flourishing business, he used his money without stint for the furtherance of every noble work. He was full of patriotism—of kindness; he was genial and cultured; to women in need of help and advice he was a very providence.

THE LATE MR. BLODGETT.

A FOREIGN TESTIMONIAL TO HIS VALUE AS A
CITIZEN AND HIS WORTH AS A MAN.

[Translated for the EVENING POST from the OPINIONE of
ROME.]

With sincere regret I announce to you the death of our distinguished citizen WILLIAM T. BLODGETT, who for the last few years was a frequent visitor in Rome, where he will be remembered with affection as a friend of Italy and a liberal patron of the fine arts. He was one of the merchant princes of America, who to great business talent united a love of culture and the highest qualities of a citizen and a philanthropist. He was

an ardent patriot, foremost in all efforts to promote the public good or to give aid to the unfortunate. Noble in his bearing, modest and attractive in his manners, Mr. Blodgett was the type of a true gentleman. His house, with its gallery of rare pictures, was the centre of all that was attractive in society, and here, aided by his elegant wife, he dispensed a cordial and princely hospitality.

In common with other citizens of eminence and taste, he founded the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and mainly through his efforts an entire gallery of Flemish pictures was purchased in Europe, as well as a great collection of antiquities obtained through the efforts of General Cesnola, American Consul to Cyprus.

In the death of Mr. Blodgett, Italy loses one of its true friends. He was one of the most active members of the committee who arranged that famous demonstration at the Academy of Music to celebrate the completion of Italian unity, and his personal influence and pecuniary aid were freely contributed on that occasion, as they were more recently in the erection of a building for the school established for the children of the Italian Emigration in this city. While in him

America laments the loss of one of her noblest sons, his love for Italy will consecrate his memory in the hearts of all true Italians.

[*From THE NATION.*]

MR. WILLIAM T. BLODGETT has been for so many years the earnest promoter of Art in this city that his death, which occurred last week at the early age of fifty-two, would be a serious loss even if he had not been in all ways one of the most public-spirited citizens New York has ever had. He came comparatively early in life into command of a large income derived from a flourishing business, which we believe he had himself been mainly instrumental in building up, and he thenceforward used it without stint for the public welfare. He had already become slightly known at the outbreak of the war as a purchaser of pictures, and the ever-helpful friend both of artistic merit and misfortune, and during the war there was probably nobody here who gave both time and money more liberally to the support of the national cause. He served on all sorts of committees, responded freely to all demands on his purse, was an active diffuser of publications in-

tended to influence public opinion both here and in Europe. Indeed, during all that trying period, when there was either work to be done or money to be raised, he was one of the first men people thought of, and we may add that his private charity and benevolence equaled, if they did not surpass in volume, what was seen and known. The first picture of note of which he became possessor was Church's "Heart of the Andes." He subsequently created a collection which is now estimated as worth probably \$200,000, and includes some of the best works of living artists on both sides of the Atlantic. As a picture-buyer, Mr. Blodgett possessed a rare combination of qualities, and had so much public spirit, and so sympathetic a disposition, that each new purchase was a public acquisition. To a passion for the subject, he added a genius for taking advice. He knew by instinct when he had got at the best authority, and a word or a hint was enough for him. He knew how to employ the best experts and get their best services. His admirable specimens of the modern French school are well known: his De Camps, Gérômes, Coutures, Meissoniers, Jules Duprés, Troyons, his Constable, and many others. His later purchases, some sixty or

seventy in number (the greater part still remaining in Paris), included a beautiful Gainsborough (his own portrait), an equally excellent portrait of a lady by Reynolds, a first-rate landscape by Rousseau, an admirable small Cuyp, a small but very valuable picture by Van der Heyden and Adrian Van de Velde, a landscape and an oil sketch by J. Ruysdael, a Vandyke, a Claude, Peter de Hooghe, and many other pictures of great interest. Picture-buying with Mr. Blodgett was art-culture. He learned as he bought, and he weeded as he learned. The result is a collection the dispersion of which would be a public misfortune. Every year gives us examples of wealthy men leaving or giving large sums for public uses—a University in Baltimore, an Observatory in California, a Conservatory of Music in New York. If it could enter the heart of some such public-spirited man to conceive our poverty in America in respect of Art, and the benefaction these pictures would be in such a place as our Metropolitan Museum, he might be sure no better use could be made of the money, should there be, at any time hereafter, an opportunity for the purchase of the collection as a whole. The Museum is largely indebted to Mr. Blodgett for its existence,

and he may be said to have laid the foundation of its artistic value, by purchasing at his own risk in Europe, for \$100,000, the Dutch and Belgian Collection which furnished its first claim on public attention. Indeed, it would be difficult to name any undertaking of the last fifteen years for the cultivation of the public taste, or the promotion of the public welfare, in which he was not one of the foremost and most cheerful workers. We may perhaps be excused for mentioning among the reasons why we, at least, should hold him in grateful remembrance—the fact that he was one of the original founders of the *Nation*, and took to the last a warm interest in its success.

[*From the NEWPORT DAILY NEWS.*]

Sad, indeed, is the news of the death of one of our esteemed summer residents, whose memory is still warm in the hearts of many a guest who has been honored by Mr. BLODGETT's graceful hospitality and genial cordiality. Very few visitors to this lovely watering place have won as rapidly and retained so firmly the respect and admiration of the community as did he whom we must now class with the past.

Of an exquisitely refined manner, courtly bearing, and sympathetic tenderness, he combined the culture of a man of the world with the quiet dignity of the domestic man. Ever ready and always willing to contribute the lion's share toward the public amusements of Newport, Mr. Blodgett knew well how to entertain; possessing as he did the rare faculty of placing all with whom he came in contact at their ease; and at once making the guests feel that they contributed as much by their presence as he did by his invitations.

His collection of paintings and rare objects of *virtu* were a study in themselves; and when his quiet voice added anecdote and reminiscence to what was already beautiful, the recipient retired from the palatial mansion with a feeling of increased self-respect, a sure indication that profit had been derived as well as pleasure. These few words are but the echo from many affectionate breasts overcome by the realization of the departure of the "loved and lost."

S. W. F.

[*From the* NEW YORK EVENING MAIL, *Nov.* 8, 1875.]

The funeral of the late WILLIAM TILDEN BLODGETT took place this morning from St. George's Episcopal

Church in Stuyvesant square. The church was filled to its utmost capacity by the numerous relatives and friends of Mr. Blodgett, and the casket containing the remains was completely covered and almost hidden by beautiful floral tributes. There was a large number of artists and literary men among the throng present. There were also present delegations from the Century Club, the Union League Club, and the Board of Directors of the Park Bank. The services, which were very solemn and impressive, were conducted by the pastor of the church, Rev. Dr. Tyng, assisted by Rev. Mr. Peet. A brief funeral oration, eulogistic of the life and character of Mr. Blodgett, was delivered by Dr. Tyng. At the conclusion of the service the remains were taken to Greenwood Cemetery for interment.

[*From the NEW YORK TIMES, Tuesday, November 9, 1875.*]

FUNERAL OF WILLIAM T. BLODGETT.

A LARGE GATHERING AND AN IMPRESSIVE SERVICE
AT ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH YESTERDAY—DR. TYNG'S
EULOGY OF THE DECEASED.

The impressive funeral service of the Protestant Episcopal Church was yesterday pronounced over

the remains of the late WILLIAM TILDEN BLODGETT, at St. George's Church in Rutherford place. Long before the commencement of the service every available portion of the large church edifice was filled with friends and acquaintances of the deceased. Among the many distinguished persons present were ex-Gov. Morgan, Gen. Cullum, Peter Cooper, A. T. Stewart, John Jay, John P. Marquand, William E. Dodge, Mayor Wickham, Salem H. Wales, John C. Hamilton, F. E. Church, Morris K. Jesup, Judge Curtis, A. S. Hewitt, Marshall O. Roberts, and the President and Directors of the National Park Bank. Among the numerous rich and costly floral offerings with which the pulpit and steps of the altar were decorated were a superb anchor of tuberose and tea-roses, embedded in a ground of flowers, with the inscription "W. T. B.," the gift of the directors of the National Park Bank; a large broken column of roses, bearing the inscription "We loved him," worked in violets; a sheaf of wheat, mingled with tall, drooping ferns; the whole being planted in the centre of a bed of rich evergreens, tuberose, tea-roses, and immortelles.

After a short voluntary on the organ the casket

containing the remains was borne up the centre aisle, preceded by the pall bearers and the officiating clergymen, Drs. Stephen H. Tyng, Sr., and Edward W. Peet. The casket, which was of rosewood, covered with black cloth, bore no inscription plate, but was profusely dressed with large palm leaves, a quantity of lilies, violets, roses, and immortelles.

After the singing of the hymn "Rock of Ages," and the reading of a portion of the fifteenth chapter of First Corinthians, Dr. Tyng, in a brief but eloquent address, spoke of the character and the labors of the deceased. There was, he said, particular significance in the words of Paul, "The glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another." It was his sad duty to speak of one upon whom both these glories had now been shed. As in retrospect he viewed the terrestrial glory of the departed, he also looked forward with supreme happiness to his celestial glory. After briefly reviewing the happy events of the domestic and commercial life of the deceased, the speaker said that in the promotion of the highest interests of Art and Science, and as the fosterer of many enterprises for the benefaction and elevation of his fellow men, the name

of Mr. Blodgett had become widely known. His predominant characteristics formed a sweet and precious memory to the many friends who knew him in public and in private life. On his death-bed, the speaker concluded, he showed the same tenderness of spirit which had characterized his life.

Service was concluded with the singing of "Nearer, my God, to Thee." After the service the remains were conveyed to Greenwood Cemetery for interment.

Life, we've been long together,
Through pleasant and through cloudy weather ;
'Tis hard to part when friends are dear,
Perhaps 'twill cost a sigh, a tear ;
 Then steal away, give little warning,
Choose thine own time ;
Say not good night !—but in some brighter clime
 Bid me good morning !



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